

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please amend the specification to add the following statement after the Title and before the paragraph beginning with “[t]he present invention relates to ...”:

This application claims benefit of PCT International Application number PCT/EP05/009997 filed on September 14, 2005 and Italian Application number MI2004A001780 filed on September 17, 2004, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Please amend the paragraph on page 3 beginning on line 5 through line 9 as follows:

In the inside of a turbine there is a stator 100, equipped with a series of stator blades in which a rotor 110, also equipped with a series of blades (rotor), is housed and is capable of rotating, said stator-rotor being rotated as a result of the gas.

Please amend the paragraphs beginning at page 6, line 14 though page 7 line 5 as follows;

figure 1 is a raised longitudinal sectional view of a sector of a preferred embodiment of a protection device 10 of a gas turbine rotor 110 according to the present invention;

figure 2 is a raised sectional radial view of the sector of figure 1;

figure 3 is a raised sectional side view according to the line III-III of figure 2~~[[.]]~~; and

figure 4 is a schematic view of a portion of a turbine illustrating a stator, a rotor and the protection device of figure 1.

With reference to the figures, these show a protection device 10 for a turbine stator 100 comprising a series of annular sectors 12 which can be coupled by connection means, each sector

12 comprising a first side surface 13 which has at least one cavity 14 having a bottom 15, each sector 12 comprises at least one stiffening rib 16 positioned inside said at least one cavity 14 and having a variable section in a longitudinal direction to modulate the rigidity of each sector 12.

Please amend the paragraphs on page 8 beginning on line 16 through line 23 as follows:

With respect to the axis of the turbine-70-71, said rib 16 along an axial direction is preferably tilted by an angle 50 preferably ranging from 3.162° to 4.278° .

Said angle 50 is preferably 3.72° .

In other words, a resistant axial section of the rib 16 varies linearly along the axis of the turbine-70-71, so as to balance the thermal gradient along the axis 70-71 of the turbine.